



Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel

Commander, 17th Coast Guard District



Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel assumed the duties of Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District in June 2014. He is responsible for all Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska which include protecting life and property, enforcing federal laws and treaties, preserving living marine resources and promoting national security. The Coast Guard's forces in Alaska total more than 2,500 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary personnel, and employs 15 cutters, 52 boats, and 17 aircraft across an area of responsibility that includes portions of the North Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea. Headquartered in Juneau, the District Commander provides operationally ready maritime forces to Coast Guard and Department of Defense Commanders for Coast Guard, joint and interagency operations both domestically and internationally.

In his previous assignment, Rear Admiral Abel commanded the First Coast Guard District. Headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, he oversaw all Coast Guard operations across eight states in the Northeast encompassing more than 2,000 miles of coastline from the U.S.-Canadian border to New Jersey and 1,300 miles offshore.

Rear Admiral Abel's other assignments include Deputy Director of Operations for United States Northern Command. As the principal advisor

to USNORTHCOM, Rear Admiral Abel provided leadership and counsel supporting strategic mission guidance; including homeland defense and security operations as well as defense support of civil authorities. As Commanding Officer of Air Station Cape Cod, he oversaw all aviation support to the Coast Guard's First District. He acted as Project Manager for "Rescue 21," leading the replacement of the outdated distress notification and command, control and communications system along the nation's 95,000 miles of coastline. Prior staff tours include serving as the Coast Guard's Chief of Aviation Safety and as a Program Reviewer crafting and defending the service's budget.

Other operational tours include command of Air Station San Francisco, Operations Officer for Air Station Houston, Aviation Training Center standardization/instructor pilot for the H-65 Dolphin helicopter and his initial aviation tour as a search and rescue/law enforcement helicopter pilot in Miami.

His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, with High Honors, from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1983. He also served as valedictorian of the College of William and Mary's Master of Business Administration class of 1994. In 2005, he was a distinguished graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) earning a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy. While at ICAF, Rear Admiral Abel completed the Department of Defense Senior Acquisition Corps syllabus, and subsequently earned his Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Program Manager Designation. He has earned qualifications in both the H-65 helicopter and the HU-25 jet. His initial officer tour was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless homeported in Miami Beach.

Rear Admiral Abel's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, and two Meritorious Service Medals. Admiral Abel is also an Eagle Scout.